



# B-QUAL Australia Pty Ltd

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### Chairman's Message

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*If you are attending the Australasian Honey Bee Research Conference Perth WA don't forget the following workshops which precede the conference, and are free to B-QUAL members.*

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June** Anti-counterfeiting your product packaging for hive to table delivery.

And

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June** B-QUAL Australia: Honey beekeeping industry standards and their auditing.

More details page 3.

Summer is nearly over in Australia and our thoughts are with any of our members that have been impacted by bushfires this season.

I would like to thank all our loyal members who understand the importance of quality assurance.

As part of B-QUAL you can be part of the new digitized traceability system (as an app) being rolled out this year making the audit process more streamlined. Or, if you prefer the paper copy from the manual that's OK too; It's all about what works best for you, that's what makes B-QUAL a good system for everybody whether you are a small or large scale business .

As part of the Australian Government's Traceability Grants Program, B-QUAL has been given funding to deliver an auditable and digitised traceability system and also to oversee development of a unique Flora Database and a national Honey Library. This will prove the authenticity of our fantastic Australian honey and thus provide consumer confidence

Lastly, have you seen our videos yet?

Click on this link [Video Gallery - B-Qual - Industry Owned Quality Assurance](#)

Well worth watching

*Wayne Fuller*

Chairman  
B-QUAL Australia Pty

***Don't forget to take care of your Financial Health.***

Now that we can see a small but opening path back to normality after the last months of confusion and business interruptions, most of us have concentrated our efforts on looking after our families, employees and ourselves, now it is time to look after your business financial health.

A few simple steps to keep in mind should include:

- ✓ Preserve your cash reserves.
- ✓ Be proactive keep your financial records up to date, reconcile bank statements and creditor invoices promptly, and if required take action, it is easier to talk about a discrepancy now than 30/40 days later.
- ✓ If not already installed consider purchasing a proprietary accounts software package, some good ones can be obtained at a very small cost.
- ✓ Take advantage of trade discounts.
- ✓ Keep observing the status of your current longer term debts, do not be afraid to renegotiate or ask for better credit terms.
- ✓ Understand your financial position and if required seek early professional advice, problems don't go away by ignoring them.
- ✓ Spend some time preparing budgets and forecasts and work to achieve those targets.
- ✓ Submit statutory returns on time, if unable due to cash flow contact Departments and seek payment terms.
- ✓ Take advantage of the numerous business grants currently available.
- ✓ Until a solid financial base to your business is re-established, carefully consider all ramifications of any large capital purchases. Consider deferring if necessary.

*The above does not constitute specific financial advice; it is of a general nature only and does not take into account any personal circumstances. Before making any commitments seek professional advice.*

***We acknowledge our sponsors and ask that whenever you can please support them, and let your colleagues know these companies support B-QUAL and our industry.***



**Conference**

30<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021.

**Full program.**

28<sup>th</sup> June – 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2021.

**Venue:**

The University Club of Western  
Australia. Perth WA

More details.

[www.CRCHBP.com.au](http://www.CRCHBP.com.au)

[www.BICWA.com.au](http://www.BICWA.com.au)

**Australasian Honey Bee 2021 Conference – decisions, decisions!**

As we are getting closer, vaccine imminent and quarantine controls tightening with each new experience of this virus and human nature, decisions on whether to travel or listen into this conference are being made. Luckily, this conference caters for whatever you are comfortable with. Ideally we would love you to all be with us together as there is nothing like a good yarn about honey bees. We also have got a little zealous and organised a 5 day whirlwind – which we are hoping you will swarm to!

Especially for B-QUAL current members (free) and those thinking of joining, there will be two workshops, prior to the conference.

- **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June** Anti-counterfeiting your product packaging for hive to table delivery –. Hosted by Dr Caroline Francis (RMIT), who has made this subject the centre of her research, there will also be cameos by companies at the technology front line.
- **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June** B-QUAL Australia: Honey beekeeping industry standards and their auditing – This workshop will introduce you to the Australian industry standards and the B-QUAL auditing system. New levels of membership are on offer depending on your business size and maturity. Following on will be a demonstration of the melliferous flora database, the digitisation of B-QUAL and the Honey Assurance system. Led by B-QUAL Australia, this workshop will include work undertaken by the CRC for Honey Bee Products.

The venue will be at the University of Western Australia and there will be lunch, and teas provided starting at 9 am with morning coffee and ending at 4 pm. The talks will be available on-line for those B-QUAL members unable to travel.

To warm you into the packed two days of conference (30<sup>th</sup> June and 1<sup>st</sup> July), on offer is a sunrise Hive & Wellness and Wescobee Beekeeper breakfast on the first day (30<sup>th</sup> June). For those who just need a strong coffee, the My Apiary coffee cart will make your special brew.

The Conference (supported by Ecrotek) is actually two conferences running side by side, BICWA (supported by DPIRD) and the research conference (supported by AgriFutures Australia) making three sessions running concurrently. So plenty of choice and ability to switch between talks.

The research conference offers an on-line live ticket, and after the conference the recordings of all talks to which the speakers have given their approval, a ticket will be available.

To take advantage of the mix of industry and researchers, there will be a panel session at the end of each conference day. The first one addresses Better bees, better business (the theme of our conference and supported by Hort Innovation), and the second (and unfortunately close to our hearts in WA this season) Better bees, better health.

Based at the University of Western Australia at their Club, all the conference catering will be in an industry-display packed Grand Ball Room which houses the Beewise Beekeeping Supplies Trade Show and research posters, and on the first evening, drinks and canapes are on offer to sustain your networking.

The second evening is the Conference dinner, and after the year we have all had, an entertainer that is assured to provide some health-giving belly laughter will complement a mouth-watering dinner.

Before those of you who have travelled to WA leave us, we would like to show you a little of WA from a beekeepers point of view. So we are offering two tours, one heads south-west to the Jarrah forest and the other north-east to the Marri. We have upped the beekeeper sandwiches to a special lunch with some special tea stops.

The enthusiasm from everyone helping us to make this conference work for all of you has been heart-warming. We look forward to being your host, whichever way is best for you.

Keep safe.

*Text supplied by Dr Liz Barbour . On behalf of the Conference Organizing Committee.*

**B-QUAL Program Developments:**

The B-QUAL digitisation app has undergone selected field trials with good success being reported and plans are being finalised to produce a larger field trial on the East Coast prior to full scale launch. We will be sending emails to members shortly seeking volunteers to trial. A user manual has been produced and will be forwarded to those participating.

The Delivering “Quality Assured Australian Honey Bee Products, and Honey library” project has progressed to the stage of honey collections, we will be emailing members asking for volunteers for an initial small collection event so we can check all systems and procedures are in place prior to a larger collection effort. At this time only B-QUAL members will be involved.

We acknowledge these programs have been in place for some time but it is imperative that we get all aspects right including procedures, security, database, storage and etc.

A new email address specifically for these two programs will be made available as [bqualdatabase@ausqual.com.au](mailto:bqualdatabase@ausqual.com.au) becoming effective once the volunteer request emails are sent out.

**A Word from our sponsor CMV Group.**

As Australia's second longest serving Kenworth dealer, CMV Truck Centre's 12-acre site is one of Australia's most advanced truck dealerships, boasting the latest state-of-the-art facilities to serve the South Australian road transport industry.

Providing complete support for the market-leading Kenworth and DAF Trucks range, plus quality pre-owned trucks from an even wider selection of brands allows CMV Truck Centre to cater all market segments and a wide range of industries, like horticulture, livestock and broad acre cropping. A professional team of highly trained and skilled consultants have extensive product knowledge to help you choose the right vehicle, assist with financing and as well as truck leasing and rentals in instances where you might experience a seasonal spike in demand.

The new DAF range, now available with Euro 6 emissions standards, offers beekeepers an incredibly efficient solution for transporting hives. DAF's latest generation of trucks deliver exceptional fuel economy, enhanced electronics and aerodynamic improvements, resulting in savings that reduce total cost of ownership.

The family owned business hasn't become this successful solely from its automotive holdings. CMV Farms, having commenced growing almonds in the early 1980's have always understood the need for cooperation between our apiarists and our orchard employees.

Tim Priesker, manager of the Lindsay Point orchard says, "at Keith's Grove, the need to keep the bees in our orchard safe and happy is pivotal to us achieving the required tonnes to turn a profit, without pollination that doesn't happen." CMV Farms Managing Director, David Crawford, recalls the shift from under tree sprinklers to drip and the effect that water saving method had on reducing forage plants that was useful for bee hive health.

"Drip irrigation was a shift that had unintended consequences. We continue to address the issue of having sufficient alternative flowering plants available when our bees are brought into the orchard. A combination of annual plants and permanent native vegetation is our ongoing focus. We also try to understand the prime issues for our apiarists and work to assist them to reach their goals.

With over 1100ha of almonds in two orchards the partnership with apiarists is critical." At CMV Farms Fielke's orchard thousands of native indigenous trees have been planted over the past four years with annual plantings to continue for years to come.

Having truck dealerships close to its four farming regions, and a network that covers both South Australia and Victoria, CMV Truck Centre along with CMV Farms aim to support the needs of customers, including apiarists, who rely on their trucks to transport bees. There are a total of seven accessible Kenworth, DAF and Hino branches between south-east Melbourne, Mount Gambier and Adelaide that offer convenient solutions.

**CMV Truck Centre****CMV Farms**

**THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BUSHFIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING SURVEY****INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE: CAN YOU HELP?**

A team of researchers at The Australian National University are conducting a survey to understand the past and present impact of bushfires and smoke on health, wellbeing, and lifestyle. The team need to hear from as many Australians as possible, both with and without bushfire experience. Many in the beekeeping community have been greatly affected by the bushfires, so it would be valuable to hear your perspectives. Your participation will help identify how to support and protect the well-being of Australians when faced with future bushfires. You could also win a \$50 gift card!

If you would consider helping or would like further information, see the study website or Facebook page, or scan the QR code on your phone (below).



**Dr Emily Macleod**  
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The Australian National University  
Canberra ACT 2600

<https://www.facebook.com/BushfireStudy>

**Adverse Experience Reports.**

Beekeepers are reminded to submit an Adverse Experience Report (AER) into the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) should an incident occur. If you require assistance in submitting the report State Bee Biosecurity Officers have been briefed by APVMA and can provide assistance in submitting a report. It is imperative that incidents are reported to government, as without this record of incidents it is harder to make changes.

**New member recruitment.**

If you are selling honey direct and not yet involved with a quality assured accreditation scheme consider joining B-QUAL now. Membership will give your clients the assurance that you are producing honeybee products to industry best practice and it will help you to maintain in an organised way all the records you will need to conform to the National Biosecurity Code of Practice.

For further information about B-QUAL accreditation contact Kaylan at BQUAL Audits [bqual@ausqual.com.au](mailto:bqual@ausqual.com.au) or phone 1800 630 890.



## Enjoy fully palletised processing locally in Victoria

Steritech Merrifield's new X-Ray Facility is now offering commercial treatment to the Beekeeping Community.

### **X-Ray Sterilisation Kills:**

- American Foulbrood (AFB)
- European Foulbrood (EFB)
- *Nosema ceranae*
- *Ascosphaera apis*
- Small Hive Beetle
- *Nosema apis*

X-Ray Sterilisation is a chemical-free, heat-free alternative used to protect beehives from disease and pests.

**Sterilisation with Steritech Merrifield is easy.**



## Book Your Treatment

For more information and to book a treatment:

**Call Steritech Merrifield 03 9216 3500**

Or email [mrforders@steritech.com.au](mailto:mrforders@steritech.com.au)



Steritech's new X-Ray sterilisation unit is now fully operational at the new Merrifield plant Melbourne.

**Populations of a rare Australian bee which has not been recorded for almost 100 years have been found in NSW and Queensland.**

But scientists have warned the *Pharohylaeus Lactiferus* is facing increasing pressure to survive because of climate change, the loss of habitat and fragmentation of Australia's rainforest.



The last record of the endemic species was recorded in Queensland in 1923. At that time only six individual bees had ever been found.

But it was rediscovered following extensive sampling of almost 250 sites.

"Three populations were

found by sampling bees visiting their favoured plant species along much of the Australian east coast, suggesting population isolation," Flinders University biological sciences PhD candidate James Dorey said.

Mr Dorey said a highly fragmented habitat and a susceptibility to bushfires might explain the rarity of *Pharohylaeus Lactiferus*.

His study also warned the species was even more vulnerable as they appeared to favour specific floral specimens and were only found near tropical or sub-tropical rainforest.



He said future research should aim to increase the understanding of the bees' biology, ecology and population genetics.

"If we are to understand and protect these wonderful Australian species, we really need to increase biomonitoring and conservation efforts, along with funding for the museum curation and digitisation of their collections and other initiatives," Mr Dorey said.

His paper has been published in *The Journal of Hymenoptera Research*.

*Text from the Standard News.*

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